



Westmarc and West Valley Chamber Alliance Luncheon

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Thank you, and good afternoon!

What a pleasure it is to be with you again. When I'm with you – I always feel as though I've come home. And, really, I have.

You stood with me – early and strong -- on Proposition 100, and I'm very grateful for that.

My years on Westmarc's Executive Committee and Board of Directors -- I'm still an Honorary Director of the Board, by the way -- will always have a special meaning for me.

And, speaking of "special meaning" ... let me take a moment to talk about Jack Lunsford, and what he's meant – and continues to mean -- to me, to WESTMARC, and all of Arizona.

A recognized expert in Arizona's property tax, and known for his work in economic development, Jack was the youngest County Assessor in Arizona HISTORY -- and one of the youngest elected officials in state history.

Appointed by FIVE different Arizona governors to boards, commissions, and task forces, Jack has been a leader in local and statewide transportation and education issues for more than 20 years.

Jack led WESTMARC's efforts to pass Proposition 400, the Maricopa County transportation tax.

His leadership at WESTMARC has been masterful – including efforts to draft and adopt the Principles for the Future of ASU West – and, in so doing, receiving the ASU Visionary Award along with WESTMARC.

Jack, you leave behind an organization -- and room full of people -- who love you and who will never forget what you've done for all of Arizona. We wish you God speed in your recovery, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you.

One of Jack's greatest legacies will be WESTMARC's formation of the Greater Maricopa Foreign Trade Zone.

It is one of the best economic development tools in the West Valley, attracting new, high-wage jobs.

And, let me take a moment to also thank Harry Paxton, Goodyear Economic Development Director, for his vision, expertise, and passion in ushering the Foreign Trade Zone to reality -- in addition to Ray Jones and Art Othon, for recognizing the potential of such a zone in the West Valley.

We're ALL working to find affordable options in the pursuit of prosperity for the businesses and citizens of Arizona.

I intend to devote my last -- and best -- years of public service to ensuring Arizona is at the top of those states with a limited public sector, a restrained regulatory state and a vibrant private sector!

Following my call for a Special Session of the Legislature -- and thanks to the hard work of President Pearce and Speaker Adams -- and thanks to the support of the business community and Chambers of Commerce -- including most of you in this room -- I was able to sign into law the FIRST of my Four Cornerstones.

I believe the Arizona Competitiveness Package is one of the most significant pieces of ECONOMIC legislation in Arizona state history.

It includes codification of the Arizona Commerce Authority as a highly focused, highly privatized entity -- with a deal closing fund that our competitor states have.

It provides for replacing our state enterprise zone laws with immediate tax incentives for quality job creation -- STATEWIDE.

And, it includes PHASED-IN tax reform starting in 2014 to address those areas where we're NOT competitive with other states.

The Competitiveness Package will make Arizona a magnet for business EXPANSION - RELOCATION -- CAPITAL FORMATION -- and INVESTMENT.

Now, we all know there are naysayers out there. Some people are telling us to SLOW DOWN -- they're saying this so-called "GAMBLE" is too great.

Well, I have a message for the doom and gloom crowd -- I have no intention of slowing down. This is not the time to be timid. In fact, this is a time for boldness -- it's a time for courage!

The day after I signed that historic legislation -- Intel Corporation announced it was investing more than \$5 billion -- that's billion with "B" -- to start a new chip manufacturing facility at its site in Chandler.

Construction of this new Arizona factory is expected to begin in the middle of this year and, when it's completed in 2013, it will be the most advanced, high-volume semiconductor manufacturing facility in the world!

Thousands of construction jobs and thousands of permanent manufacturing jobs will be created.

Intel could have located anywhere. But there are many reasons it selected Arizona.

Intel officials themselves will tell you, -- and I quote -- "Arizona policies have encouraged Intel to invest billions of dollars in the state and create thousands of high-wage jobs, and we commend the Governor and Arizona's elected leaders for choosing to compete." End Quote.

I was THEN able to announce, a short time later ... Gestamp Solar Steel USA is basing its United States headquarters in Arizona, constructing a solar manufacturing facility, creating hundreds of jobs.

-- PayPal is opening a new 188,000-squarefoot facility, expected to create up to 2,000 new jobs.

Focused on both urban AND rural job creation, our agenda is based on a belief in the awesome power of free enterprise -- private businesses finally freed to compete on the global stage. And, in order to compete, employers need a skilled workforce, and employees want a good school system for their children.

Achieving a strong economy for Arizona's second century requires that we act now to strengthen our education system.

So, my SECOND Cornerstone of reform is an education reform plan that reaches every student, in every classroom -- from preschool to college -- in every part of Arizona, en route to a future in which all Arizona students are prepared to succeed in college and careers and to lead this state in the next 100 years and beyond. Children will learn if we expect them to -- and, I can tell you this ... we expect them to learn in ARIZONA!

To reward our best teachers and best principals, to ensure that RESOURCES follow SUCCESS, and to reward schools and colleges for GRADUATING students instead of

just ENROLLING them, Arizona needs a data system that accurately reports the performance of students, teachers and schools.

The education data system we have now is both unreliable and out-of-date -- and that's why my Executive Budget Recommendation for FY 2012 includes a plan to fund a NEW data system -- and to oversee its development.

Access to better information will help parents support their child -- and this has always been a priority for me. We've always known that the more involved parents are -- the more successful their students will be.

Last month, I was proud to announce the launch of www.arizonaschoolchoice.com -- a website designed specifically for parents to help them navigate the many different opportunities available in Arizona.

We have a sound education reform plan with yearly benchmarks that will put us on the path to achieve specific goals by 2020, including doubling the number of college students who complete their studies and receive a four-year degree.

During these times of decreasing state support and rising tuition, the state must continue to explore lower cost higher education models, including the expansion of Two-Plus-Two programs, more regional campuses with various tuition options, online education, a State College system, and four-year degrees offered by community colleges.

To consistently rank among America's top economic growth states, Arizona needs a modern state government, so my THIRD Cornerstone of Reform includes a series of reforms in budgeting, programs and operations.

Arizona needs to reform and modernize its state personnel and retirement systems and re-enforce its status as a Right-to-Work state.

Arizona is saddled with an overly bureaucratic state personnel system from a bygone era. Simply put, the State of Arizona needs a state personnel system that attracts and retains the best employees AND increases employee accountability and agency efficiency!

I'm proposing that Arizona transition to a 21st century state personnel system -- as other states have already done -- a strong selling point for business attraction, retention and expansion.

We value our state and local work force -- but we must ensure that their entitlements are not greater than that of other large employers --- or more than Arizona taxpayers can support.

In addition to personnel and retirement system reforms, we need to strengthen the right of every employee to have an individual relationship with his or her employer.

As long as I am Governor, Arizona will remain a Right to Work State.

The United States has a federal government, not a national government.

For the next four years, Arizona will continue to pursue a policy of "Renewed Federalism" – my fourth Cornerstone of Reform -- that protects the State of Arizona and its citizens against an over-reaching federal government. Never during our nearly 100 years of statehood has federal interference in Arizona's affairs been more blatant than in 2010.

We must demand that the federal government:

- Secure our international border;
- Overturn the 2010 health care reform and its unconstitutional mandates on states, employers and citizens;
- And free local jurisdictions from unnecessary federal oversight of local elections.

On February 10th Attorney General Tom Horne and I filed suit against the federal government due to its constitutional failure to secure the border and protect Arizona citizens against the negative effects of illegal immigration.

With that filing, Arizona both answered the Obama administration's lawsuit regarding SB1070 and submitted a counterclaim against the federal government.

Our message for the federal government is simple: Use federal resources to combat the cartels that are breaking federal law.

Don't attack Arizona, which is helping to enforce federal law.

We did not want this fight. We did not start this fight. But now that we're in it, we will not rest until our border is secured.

We're fighting to be cut loose from unconstitutional -- and unfunded healthcare mandates.

And, we're delighted that a Florida U.S. District Judge found that the individual mandate in ObamaCare, which requires everyone to purchase federally-approved health care, is unprecedented and unconstitutional.

That decision has a direct impact upon the federal Medicaid requirement from which we're seeking a waiver.

If the federal health plan is unconstitutional, it follows that the maintenance-of-effort funding requirement it implemented upon the states would be unconstitutional as well --

and federal officials' should take that decision into account when reviewing our waiver request.

We've lost the sense of which problems require national solutions and which are best handled at the local level. One way to help our local jurisdictions in their own growth and planning process is to free them from out-dated, unnecessary federal requirements.

The United States Supreme Court recently said local governments may petition to remove themselves from Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act -- the federal pre-clearance process.

Over 60 local jurisdictions in other states have done so -- successfully.

Together, with Secretary Ken Bennett and local jurisdictions in Arizona, we can reward those who have accomplished the mission of the Voting Rights Act.

We can allow them to finally end the unnecessary, expensive, and burdensome federal Justice Department oversight of Arizona elections.

Let me close by saying, if we chart a path to the freedom that we all want, Arizona will stand in shining contrast to other states -- as we LIMIT the growth of the public sector and RESTRAIN unnecessary regulation, and stimulate the engine of free enterprise.

I know that if we hold fast to that rock, then our future and the future of Arizona will shine brightly.

May God bless you and your families, and our Great State of Arizona. And may God always bless and protect the United States of America.

Thank you.